

[No Report.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 26, 1859.

Read a first and second time, committed to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ATKINS, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported the following bill:

A BILL

To amend the acts in relation to the Post Office Department.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That from and after the first day of July, one thousand eight
4 hundred and fifty-nine, in lieu of the rates of postage now
5 established by law, there shall be charged the following rates,
6 to wit:

7 For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any
8 kind in which information shall be asked for or communicated
9 in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any
10 distance between places in the United States not exceeding
11 three thousand miles, five cents, and for any distance over
12 three thousand miles, ten cents; and for a double letter there

13 shall be charged double these rates, and for a treble letter
14 treble these rates ; and every letter or parcel not exceeding
15 half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, and
16 every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight
17 of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional
18 single rate of postage.

19 And there shall be charged for letters conveyed in the
20 mail, wholly or in part by sea, and to or from a foreign
21 country, for any distance under twenty-five hundred miles, ten
22 cents, and for any distance over twenty-five hundred miles,
23 twenty cents for each half ounce in weight, or additional
24 weight of less than half an ounce, excepting, however, all
25 cases in which such postage has been or shall be adjusted at
26 different rates by postal treaty or convention already concluded
27 or hereafter to be made.

28 And every letter or packet brought into the United
29 States, or carried from one port therein to another, in any
30 private ship or vessel, shall be charged with five cents, if
31 delivered at the post office where the same shall arrive ;
32 and if destined to be conveyed thence by post to any place
33 two cents shall be added to the ordinary rates of postage.

34 All drop letters, or letters placed in any post office, not
35 for transmission, but for delivery only, shall be charged with
36 postage at the rate of one cent each, to be accounted for as
37 other postages.

38 And all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as
39 remaining over, or uncalled for, in any post office shall be
40 charged with one cent each in addition to the regular postage,
41 to be accounted for as postages now are.

42 And upon all letters passing through or in the mails of
43 the United States, excepting such as are to or from a foreign
44 country, and letters and packages addressed to officers of the
45 government who are authorized by law to send and receive
46 letters free on official business, the rates of postage hereby
47 established shall be prepaid by postage stamps, or stamped
48 envelopes, or in money, at the option of the sender.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of the
2 first section of the act of August thirtieth, eighteen hundred
3 and fifty-two, entitled "An act to amend the act entitled 'An
4 act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United
5 States, and for other purposes,' " passed March third, eighteen
6 hundred and fifty-one, as allows a deduction of fifty per cent.
7 from the rates of postage established by said act on newspa-
8 pers and periodicals paid quarterly or yearly in advance, be,
9 and the same is hereby, repealed.